SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I could not fully follow the question. Again, please do not bring religion into the family planning programme. Let us take a national initiative in this regard that everybody who is a citizen of India- whether male or female - accepts this programme as a national necessity.

Anti-TB Drugs

*86. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government for increasing the financial assistance and supply of anti-TB drugs/equipment for controlling tuberculosis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Rajasthan desired conversion of the National TB Control Programme int a 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Scheme in view of the large requirements of the State for drugs.

(c) In consultation with the Planning Commission, it has been decided to continue the National TB Control Programme as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 50: 50 basis. Govt. of Rajasthan is receiving appropriate assistance under this programme.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Rajasthan has sought financial assistance from the Union Government for controlling tuberculosis. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the amount of financial assistance provided to the State Government during the previous financial years and the amount of assistance the Central Government propose to provide to the State Government in future, for controlling tuberculosis.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wants to know about Rajasthan. The Budget allocation during the past three years has been as under. During 1989-90, the allocation was for Rs.44 lakhs while the actual expenditure was Rs. 51.65 lakhs and it was given. During 1990-91 the allocation was Rs. 50 lakhs, while the actual expenditure of the Rajasthan Government was Rs. 42.01 lakhs and for this year, i.e. 1991-92, the Budget allocation is Rs. 53 lakhs and the anticipated actual expenditure is also Rs. 53 lakhs. Apart from this, the Union Government has provided massive material assistance. The Centre has also provided equipments and six diesel jeeps to the Rajasthan Government.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I would like to submit that the disease is wide-spread in the State. Keeping in mind, the large desert area in the State and the population, will the Government think of increasing the allocation?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: The assistance being provided to the State Governments is on a 50: 50 basis, under which, while the Central Government provides the necessary anti-TB drugs and equipments, the State Governments have to make available infrastructural facilities. I would like to tell the hon. Member that the Centre shall review its allocation, if the State Government's expenditure exceeds its budget.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Is it true that cement factories are also responsible for causing tuberculosis? A large number of small and large cement units are com-

ing up all over Rajasthan. In fact, the State is one of the major suppliers of cement in the country. Does the Union Government propose to issue any special directions to the State Governments to control tuberculosis in areas where cement units are located and does it intend to provide any special grant for the purpose?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I have no information to the effect that cement units cause tuberculosis. The Environment Minister is present in the House and I would request him to check pollution in areas, where these units are located.

Survey on Forest Reserve

*87. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey with regard to the decline in forest reserve during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Forest Survey of India, Dehra Dun has been assessing the forest cover of the country based on visual interpretation of Satellite imageries of forests on a two years cycle basis, and the report is published as "The State of the Forest Report". The third and the latest assessment of forest cover relating to the period 1987-89 has just been completed and the report is being finalised. As per the assessment there has been an increase in the actual forest cover of the country at an annual rate of 28000 ha. for the period 1987-89.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: In your reply, you have mentioned that forest cover of the country is assessed on a two years cycle basis. By when do you propose to finalise the report relating to the period 1987-89? Have you fixed any deadline for it?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: As I have already informed, the assessment has already been completed. It is known a 'The State of the Forest Report', and it has been completed. I hope that we would be able to present it in its final shape within the next two months. If the hon. Member is interested, I am prepared to present the figures, obtained from the assessment.

SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: In your answer, you have said that there has been an increase in the actual forest cover of the country at an annual rate of 28,000 hectares. Has this increase taken place in Uttar Pradesh also? If so, where all has it been noticed?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: According to the the information we have received from the interpretation of sattelite imageries, the forest cover in Uttar Pradesh has decreased. Uttar Pradesh is among the States where the forest cover has considerably declined. There has been a decrease of 18 sq. km. in comparison to the 1985-87 figures.

[*English*]

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Sir, I would like to know whether the total survey and inventory of all the forests is done and whether the same is being recorded by the Government of India. Secondly, as they give awards in Customs Department to persons who inform them about smuggling, if illegal cutting of trees is going on, will the Government think of giving awards to persons who inform about such illegal cutting.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: According to the Indian Forest Report, 1987, the forest area of the country for the year 1985-86 was